

HOUSE RESOLUTION 139

By Moon

A RESOLUTION to commend and honor Hungarian Ambassador to the United States Szabolcs Takács.

WHEREAS, U.S.-Hungarian relations date back to the American Revolution when Michael Kovats, a Hungarian nobleman, volunteered to serve our nation by declaring to Benjamin Franklin, "I am willing to sacrifice myself wholly and faithfully as it is expected of an honest soldier...for the freedom of your great Congress"; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Commandant Kovats remained "most faithful unto death," as written to Ambassador Franklin, when he died in service to our nation, but not before leaving a legacy as one of the Fathers of the American Cavalry, of which our own 278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment traces its lineage; and

WHEREAS, another Hungarian nobleman, Lajos Kossuth, the father of Hungarian democracy and freedom fighter, who, in 1852, after delivering a speech to the Ohio legislature, later inspiring President Abraham Lincoln, by proclaiming, "The spirit of our age is Democracy. All for the people, and all by the people. Nothing about the people without the people – That is Democracy!" became the second foreigner to address a joint meeting of the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, since 1989, after the fall of communism, the United States has been one of the largest investors in Hungary and is currently ranked tenth, with investments by U.S. companies accounting for almost \$10 billion; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, Hungary has been a formal ally of the United States as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is globally recognized as a leader in industry, energy production, and national security. Hungary seeks to establish partnerships with Tennessee institutions and businesses; and

WHEREAS, now the esteemed representative of Hungary, Ambassador Szabolcs Takács has come to Tennessee to deepen ties and create bonds of lasting friendship between Tennessee and Hungary; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that Ambassador Takács be recognized at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we commend and honor our friend Ambassador Szabolcs Takács of Hungary in our shared endeavor to establish everlasting bonds of friendship and economic development between Hungary and Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.